

EUROPEAN AQUARIUM & TERRARIUM ASSOCIATION



WIR STEHEN FÜR TIERGERECHTE UND SACHKUNDIGE VIVARISTIK !

Residence EATA,
Vijftien – Augustusstraat 37/4
B – 3690 Zutendaal

Zutendaal 00.00.2013

Minutes of the EATA meeting on 26 October 2013

The EATA meeting in 2013 took place at the Hotel Zebetinsky Dvur in Zebetin , near Brno, Czech Republic. Present were Werner Dossler (BBAT , PR), Anton Lamboj (ÖVVÖ , Vice President), Jean -Jacques Eckert (FFA , cashier), Bernhard Schwab (ÖVVÖ , Secretary) as well as Petr Dvorak (Aqva CZ) , Erich Bühlmann and Robi Guggenbühl (SDAT), Thierry de Coulon (ARCAT)

1. Werner Dossler welcomes those present and thanks Petr Dvorak for his organisation and hospitality.
2. Protocol 2012: The minutes of the 2012 meeting is the subject of several requests for corrections from Robi Guggenbühl , especially the fact that the EATA (new) was founded , it was not just a name change. In this sense, it is presented incorrectly in the presidential report.

Section 8 reads: " if the association is officially established ." EATA was officially established.

In item 5 , " according to the statutes ." The new EATA has no statutes , there are only the old statutes. Werner Dossler corrected so that there are «Arbeitsrichtlinien» (" work rules ") that have been adopted and act like statutes. The question arises , to rewrite them, to call them " statutes " and to officially log them. However, such an application is not so easy, must me made be through a notary and costs between € 1,800 and € 2500. This should change soon , so it's better to wait . On the other hand, depending on how the EATA is logged, it will Taxable. For that reason the term " community of interest " should be used.

In paragraph 6 , the second sentence is not clear : Werner Dossler explains that in Belgium there are "official" members and " unofficial" members , all have to be registered. Anton Lamboj says that this situation does not occur in Austria . It is proposed to amend the record , and simply ask that "associations notify all their members " . Each club should know how it is done locally.

In point 9, the last line can be removed completely , or be replaced by the words "at the time the working rules remain in effect". Werner Dossler modifies the protocol. Erich Bühlmann officially requests that the new version replaces the old one on the web site of EATA .

During this first part of the EATA members had the opportunity to greet and present themselves to the members of the Czech society Cyperus who held their meeting on the upper floor.

3. Werner Dossler had contacts in Brussels with a lobbyist (for fish importers, OFI) who would be willing to share his information concerning our hobby.

Werner Dossler had significant health problems , just as Jean-Jacques Eckert , which made their activities in recent months rather complicated. At the moment in Brussels little concrete is going on, officially for lack of money . The Ampularia story has left its marks, the decision taken on request of a single country was not particularly appreciated. There is now a Commission to examine how these snails landed in nature. It consists exclusively of specialists, including some people who know the world of hobbies. Anton Lamboj suggests that the EATA writes Brussels to offer to act as a consultant. In such situations , EU usually contacts veterinarians in the affected countries, who usually know little or nothing about the situation of the aquarists. The fate of apple snails is also not yet final, the question arises as to what to do with the existing population?

Anton Lamboj wishes each country to create a group of people together that could be presented at the highest level as "specialists" rather than "hobbyists " . Jean -Jacques Eckert reads an announcement by the EU on measures to fight invasive species . Anton Lamboj emphasises that these species were almost always introduced for economic reasons and not by hobbyists .

4. EATA accounting: we must solve the question of the check. It is proposed that two organisations deal with the audit (accounts sent as a PDF by Jean -Jacques). Each association appoints two auditors in their respective associations. For this year , the delegates present will still release the cashier. The cash balance amounted to € 1 581.85 . The only cost (50.00 €) relate to the web presence of EATA (Home Page).

Regarding the database , in the minutes of the 2012 meeting several questions were asked that should have been answered before Christmas 2012 . However, according to Erich and Werner, they still have not been answered. Anton explains that the database is working , regardless of the fact that it is not used enough. Last year there were problems, access did not work. So we have cure this in contact with Julian. Once the problem is resolved, we will pay . The associations have to pay € 40 for the database, but Erich states that SDAT will not pay before the database is working properly.

On this basis , the Assembly approves Jean-Jacques Eckert's accounting for fiscal year 2012-2013.

5. Confirmation of the current Board of EATA : No one disputes the work of the Board . However, Bernhard Schwab desires to resign as secretary : it is increasingly necessary to be able to work in English as a secretary , which he unfortunately can not . Also, Jean -Jacques Eckert wants to resign and proposes someone who can speak English , but not German . Werner Dossler would like more information about this man , but others are of the opinion that it would not change the problem , because we do not know him anyway. Werner Witopil (VDA , auxiliary treasurer of EATA) , who lives not far from Jean -Jacques , is to assume the office for the unexpired term . Jean -Jacques will transmit the files to him. Thierry de Coulon

agrees to become EATA secretary. He assumes the position for one year (2014 election of the entire board).

6. EATA web site : Our Web master does not make things fast enough , but is a universal problem with web masters . We must ensure that we get all the access codes. Werner will meet the Web master soon to settle the matter . EATA also has a Facebook page . Anton suggests that all associations should open their own Facebook pages.
7. www.aquaticrepublic.com works. Anton never had access problems. However, the site is still little used . Werner Dossler asks if there is a Manual. Anton Lamboj thinks that the site is "self-explanatory " . Werner Dossler does not share this opinion. We must be able to explain to the associations to use the database. Anyone can add data , it must not be carried out by an association . However one must contact the database administrator to get extended rights. Erich Bühlmann says that practice has shown that the system is not working as expected (point 7 of the 2012 Minutes), which has already been mentioned last year. SDAT has announced a man in charge, but has never received an answer. Werner Dossler asks Anton Lamboj write down the main instructions and to transmit them to the associations.
8. EU guidelines: this point has been discussed before. In Austria, animal advocates have again tried to introduce positive lists. But it seems that these positive lists are illegal from European law perspective (because they lead to discrimination that are not allowed). It is also not allowed to introduce laws that bring only administrative simplifications. There are other legal elements that can be used (for example, the fact that its a fundamental right to hold pets). If such laws come into force in Austria , ÖVVÖ will fight them legally . Anton Lamboj thinks that the same logic can be applied at European level. ÖVVÖ has, however, also required that a «certificate of competence» should be required from everyone. Jean-Jacques Eckert questions the liability of the seller. At present, many want the greatest possible freedom of trade , but the idea of the responsibility of the seller is making progress, like with the sale of weapons or drugs.

SDAT: (German speaking Switzerland) has been supervising Swiss efforts to check some "excesses " in the field of animal breeding. SDAT participates in this process , but it does not seem that fish will be a particular problem.

AKVA CZ: In the Czech Republic , the Greens are not in parliament , so there are no problems Nevertheless, the government is working on the protection of animals , some protected species multiply so well that they must be hunted now . There is no Terraristic association in the Czech Republic.

ÖVVÖ: Anton Lamboj is working on posters intended to draw the buyer's attention on the costs incurred at fostering various reptiles. He will show them to us when they are done .

ARCAT: (French-speaking Switzerland) is still alive and plans to continue working with the SDAT. Sylvain Ursenbacher took over the presidency, Thierry de Coulon has taken over as secretary. We wish the ARCAT much success for the future.

BBAT: (Flemish Belgium) strives to find new members and to improve cooperation with ICAIF (French-speaking Belgium, excused).

FFA: (France) has a new president from April 2014

VDA: (Germany) is excused .

The Dutch Association (NBAT) it is not going well, maybe EATA can offer some support ?

Anton Lamboj is chairman of the DCG (German Cichlids Society) . The association is interested in joining EATA , but refuses to do so over the VDA . The question is whether it is possible to accept the association as " umbrella organisation " . The question then arises whether we should change our policies in order to accept the international organisations . This issue is too complex to be quickly to discuss this year. The question should be added to the agenda of the next meeting .

9. **SDAT:** presents its concept for specific training for pet owners (FBA, «Fachspezifische Berufs unabhängige Ausbildung» or Specialised independent professional training, formerly known as " Animal keeper light "). It includes 40 hours teaching, from which 20 hours are theory . There are 7 half days of theoretical training and 3 half days of practical training . The first course was attended by 12 participants for the FBA breeding and 2 for the FBA animal shelter. It was well rated by the participants. A second course is planned for summer 2014. SDAT also succeeded in taking academic institutions and zoos as members. They also offers training for marine aquarists (a certificate of competence the sea water aquaristic is also planned). A quality label for breeders was proposed, which is connected to the certificate of competence.

VDA: wanted to send someone to attend our meeting, but no one did come, which all delegates deplore. However, Robi Guggenbühl informed us that the VDA is also working on projects: natural species and nature conservation, cooperation with ZGAP (zoos), recognition as a conservation organisation, work on the new legal requirements with respect for animal exchange markets and the requirement for sellers to inform their customers .

10. Posters EATA : A flyer was created and sent as a PDF to all federations. It is also possible to create rolling presentations for a low price - the possibility of a sponsorship by JBL is being checked. Thierry de Coulon proposes to write these presentations in English and in the local language. Erich Bühlmann wants bigger letters. Printing should be centralised for cost reasons.
11. This point has been under point 8 already been discussed .
12. Meeting 2014 : it is proposed to meet on September 13th 2014 in Belgium (near Antwerp) , maybe with the possibility to visit the technical facilities of Antwerp's Aquarium. More information to follow.

Basic version : Secretary Th. de Coulon

Proofreading: President W. Dossler

10.12.2013 Zutendaal